

**SUBJECTS.**

*Mr. R. Karunakaran Pillai* (Member, Parur Taluk) stated that sweet toddy was drawn from toddy-producing trees, not for the purpose of consuming it as toddy, but for manufacturing it into jaggery. He added that the jaggery industry was the prevailing occupation of the Shannars of South Travancore and of the Ezhavas in the North and that it was in its infant stage, and that, like all infant industries, it stood in need of encouragement at the hands of Government. To save the industry from decline, Government had, however, exempted the whole of the Padmanabhapuram Division from the operation of the Sweet-Toddy Rules. He represented that in North Travancore the jaggery industry was in a still more undeveloped condition and it would not thrive there without the support of Government. He suggested therefore that Parur and the adjoining taluks should be exempted from the operation of the new Rules, like the Padmanabhapuram Division. He prayed that Government might institute enquiries into the complaints of those who were engaged in the tapping of sweet toddy, redress their grievances and thus encourage the industry.

*Dewan's reply.*—It has always been the policy of Government to reduce the consumption of liquor. What is aimed at is the maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption. In the Sweet Toddy Rules issued recently, care has been taken to exclude those areas where the manufacture of jaggery is a regular industry. The whole of the Padmanabhapuram Division and certain portions of the Neyyattinkara taluk and the whole of the Shencotta taluk have been exempted. At the same time, I have to mention that the information before Government is that there is a large volume of fermented toddy being manufactured and consumed in the Parur and other taluks under cover of sweet toddy. It is the duty of the Excise Department to put down this practice, and if, in doing so, the officers of that Department make searching enquiries as to the antecedents etc. of the applicants for sweet toddy licenses, they are acting rightly.

41. *That the proprietors of the salt pans in the Thamarakolam and Variyur Allams should be given as kudivaram two-fifths of the actual selling price of the salt.*

*Mr. M. Sivathanoo Pillai* (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) represented that the proprietors of the salt pans in the Thamarakolam and Variyur Allams should be given as kudivaram  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the actual selling price of the salt, instead of only  $\frac{2}{5}$  of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  chs. or 3 chs. per maund, which was calculated at the old tariff rate that had prevailed since 928 M. E. He added, in reply to a query from the Dewan, that the people whom he

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represented were prepared to attend to the Maramat. works in the Allams.

*Dewan's reply.*—Please submit a petition to that effect signed by all the proprietors on whose behalf you bring forward the proposal.

*VI. Sanitation, Vital Statistics and Medical Relief.*

**42. Elective system of membership for the Town Improvement Committees.**

*Mr. K. Atchuthan Pillai* (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) requested that the privilege of electing the non-official members of the Town Improvement Committees might be conferred upon the people. He added that the inhabitants of the towns were being asked to pay local taxes and that therefore they could claim this privilege of electing the non-official members of the Town Improvement Committees all the more strongly. He prayed that Government might be pleased to give the matter their best consideration.

*Dewan's reply.*—The Presidents of all the Committees have recommended the adoption of the elective system. As all the Committees have now resolved to levy local taxation, Government are prepared to allow the concession. Rules for the purpose are being drafted.

**43. Increased grants to the Town Improvement Committees.**

*Mr. P. M. Chacko* (Member, T. I. C., Kottayam) stated that 15 years ago Government were pleased to sanction grant of Rs. 4,000 to the Kottayam T. I. C. Although the grant was Rs. 4,000, the Kottayam T. I. C. either did not find the necessity of supplying certain needs or those needs did not press their claims on the Committee. It spent only Rs. 2,800 and the balance was credited to Government. In subsequent years, the grants were slightly increased by small amounts and in 1075 the grant rose to Rs. 4,690. From that year forward the grant decreased to Rs. 4,396 in 1082 and Rs. 4,300 in 1083. In 1084, with a view to stimulate local effort and self-help, the Government made a reduction of Rs. 1,300 on the previous year's grant, and as the Committee had no funds at its disposal for meeting current expenses, it was driven to the necessity of reducing the staff and of cutting down the number of lamps. In the hot season, the season of epidemics, the Committee could not, without the necessary funds, carry on the work that was entrusted to it. The estimate for the current year was Rs. 5,000 and the Committee was making every effort to find the necessary funds. The houses were being taxed, but at the highest reckoning the income from this head would come to only Rs. 750 a year and the income from other sources would be about Rs. 350, and still an amount of Rs. 900 was wanted. The Member